

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled)

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): In an endoscopic catheter for passing through the working channel of an endoscope, said endoscopic catheter having a cable actuated needle knife in a lumen thereof, said needle knife being deployable from a distal end of said catheter, the improvement for substantially preventing movement of said needle knife after deployment which comprises one or more spaced apart detents along said cutting member which interact with one or more notches in the distal end of said lumen thereby providing resistance to movement.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): Catheter of claim 10 wherein said detents are evenly spaced along a length of the cutting member.

Claims 12 - 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): In an endoscopic catheter for passing through the working channel of an endoscopic catheter, said endoscopic catheter having a distally located tissue cutting device in a lumen thereof comprising an exposed linear cutting member, the improvement for determining the amount of cutting member deployed for cutting which comprises:

providing said cutting member with a plurality of visual indicia located at visually measurable intervals.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): Catheter of claim 21 wherein said catheter has:
a visual reference point to determine the length of the deployed cutting member by reference to said indicia.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): Catheter of claim 22 wherein the cutting member is a needle knife and said visual reference point is at the distal end of said catheter.

Claim 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): Catheter of claim 21 wherein said visual indicia are referenced from a middle of said cutting member and alternate along a length of said cutting member as a function of the distance from said middle thereof.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn): Catheter of claim 21 wherein said visual indicia include different color markings.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): Method for ~~exposing~~ determining length of exposure of a tissue cutting device ~~located in from~~ from a distal portion of a lumen of an endoscope catheter ~~for passing through the working channel of an endoscope,~~ which comprises:

providing said tissue cutting member device with a plurality of radiopaque indicia located at radiologically measurable intervals along a length of said tissue cutting device member;

deploying said tissue cutting device to be exposed from said distal portion of said lumen member; and

radiologically determining the length of said tissue cutting device member as deployed from said distal portion of said lumen.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): Method of claim 27 wherein said step of radiologically determining said length uses a radiopaque reference point.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): Method of claim 28 wherein said tissue cutting device member is a needle knife and said radiopaque reference point is at the distal end of said catheter.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): Method for determining length of exposure of ~~exposing~~ a tissue cutting device ~~located in~~ from a distal portion of a lumen of an endoscope catheter, ~~for passing through the working channel of an endoscope~~ which comprises:

providing said tissue cutting device ~~member~~ with a plurality of radiopaque indicia located at radiologically measurable intervals along a length of said tissue cutting device, ~~member~~ and also providing a radiopaque reference point;

deploying said tissue cutting device to be exposed from said distal portion of said lumen ~~member~~; and

radiologically determining the length of said tissue cutting device ~~member~~ which is exposed from said distal portion of said lumen.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): Method of claim 31 wherein said tissue cutting device ~~member~~ is a needle knife and said radiopaque reference point is at the distal end of said catheter

Claim 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Withdrawn): Method for preventing movement of an exposed portion of a deployed cutting knife located in a distal portion of a lumen of an endoscopic catheter for passing through the working channel of an endoscope which comprises:

providing said cutting member with a plurality of detents located at spaced intervals;

providing the distal end of said catheter with a corresponding notch; and

engaging said notch and a detent upon deployment of said knife at a desired length to prevent movement of said deployed cutting knife.

35. (New) A catheter having at least one lumen, said catheter comprising:

a tissue cutting device disposed in said lumen, said tissue cutting device having a cutting member disposed for extension out of an opening in said lumen;

said tissue cutting device further disposed in said lumen for movement along said lumen to move said cutting member out of said opening;

at least one radiopaque indicia disposed on said tissue cutting device to move with said tissue cutting device in said lumen,

wherein the length of said cutting member is extended from said opening is a length said radiopaque indicia is moved in said lumen.

36. (New) The catheter according to claim 35 wherein there are at least two radiopaque indicia disposed on said tissue cutting device and said each of said radiopaque indicia is positioned at radiologically measurable intervals along a length of said tissue cutting device.

37. (New) The catheter according to claim 35 wherein said cutting member is a needle knife.

38. (New) The catheter according to claim 35 wherein a radiopaque indicia is disposed on said catheter as a reference point.

39. (New) The catheter according to claim 35, wherein there are at least three radiopaque indicia disposed on said tissue cutting device and said radiopaque indicia are disposed from a middle of said tissue cutting device at positions that are a function of distance from the middle of said tissue cutting device.